## Message Text

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P 242318Z FEB 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, HU

SUBJECT: US-HUNGARIAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) BUDAPEST 630, (B) BUDAPEST 812

1. WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY THAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME. WE ARE USING THE FOLLOWING UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS:

Q. WILL THE US GRANT MFN TARIFF TREATMENT TO HUNGARY?

A. THE US AND HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN HOLDING CONLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. HOW WOULD MFN BE EXTENDED?

A. UNDER SECTION 405 OF THE TRADE ACT, THE US MAY PROVIDE NON-DISCRIMINATORY TARIFF TREATMENT TO NON-MARKET COUNTRIES ONLY FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT,

WHICH MUST BE APPROVED IN CONGRESS.

IN ADDITION, THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 402 OF THE ACT (THE JACKSON-VANIK AMEMDMENT) MUST BE MET.

Q. HAVE NEGOTIATIONS OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT BEGUN?

A. YES, DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN BUDAPEST EARLIER THIS MONTH. OUR NEGOTIATORS MADE GOOD PROGRESS AND WE ARE HOLDING A SECOND ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. WE CANNOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THEY ARE IN PROGRESS.

Q. WHO IS LEADING THE US SIDE?

A. THE US AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY, PHILIP KAISER. HE IS BEING ASSISTED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRACLOUGH AND OTHER TRADE SPECIALISTS.

Q. ARE EMIGRATION ASSURANCES NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EXTEND MFN?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT ASSURANCES ON EMIGRATION ARE NECESSARY?

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A. SECTION 402 OF THE TRADE ACT REQUIRES THAT THE PRESIDENT REPORT TO CONGRESS THAT HE HAS RECEIVED CERTAIN ASSURANCES REGARDING EMIGRATION.

Q. HAS HUNGARY GIVEN ASSURANCES ON ITS EMIGRATION PRACTICES?

A. CONSULTATIONS ON THIS QUESTION ARE CONTINUING. WE CANNOT GO INTO ANY DETAILS AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THREE SEMI-ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPORTS TO THE CSCE COMMISSION HAVE INDICATED HUNGARY'S EXEMPLARY RECORD WITHIN THE WARSAW PACT IN IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND THE FORTHCOMING NATURE OF HUNGARY'S POLICY ON EMIGRATION QUESTIONS.

Q. WHAT IS THE LINKAGE BETWEEN RETURN OF THE CROWN AND MFN?

A. THESE TWO ISSUES ARE IN NO WAY LINKED. THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WAS NOT CONNECTED TO ANY OTHER ISSUE.

2. WE REGRET DELAYS IN PROVIDING PARAGRAPHS ON SERVICES

AND EXIMBANK. WE INTEND TO PROVIDE DRAFT TEXTS TO HUNGARIAN DELEGATION HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. CUSTOMS COURTESIES IN BOSTON HAVE BEEN ARRANGED, AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATION WILL BE MET IN WASHINGTON BY STATE OFFICIALS. VANCE

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